



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Affairs Specialist

(409) 839-2538

NIGERIAN MAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY FRAUD

(Sherman, Texas) A 30-year-old Nigerian man has been sentenced to 24 months in federal prison for stealing other persons identities to commit fraud. **LOT OLUDELE AKANMU**, of Lagos, Nigeria, was also ordered to pay \$218,620.80 in restitution by United States District Court Judge Richard Schell.

According to court documents, Akanmu admitted to participating in a scheme in which he stole debit cards, ATM cards, credit cards, and blank checks legitimately issued to other individuals from the mail. Akanmu also admitted using other persons social security numbers and other identifying information to obtain credit charge accounts and debit cards accounts in their name and then assuming their identity. Akanmu used the fraudulent and stolen items to obtain over \$200,000 in cash and goods.

Akanmu pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit fraud in connection with access devices on February 8, 2005.

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United States Attorney

Matthew D. Orwig reminded the public to be vigilant in safeguarding their personal information, "Protect your mail and identifying information such as your social security numbers and account numbers, as you would cash. Keep these items in a safe place and make arrangements to ensure your incoming and outgoing mail is not left unattended." Orwig also pledged to continue the vigorous prosecution of those involved in identity theft.

The United States Postal Inspection Service investigated the case.
Assistant U.S. Attorney Terri L. Hagan prosecuted the case.

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